The details and names of the Scheduled formulations for which increase or decrease in prices was notified for the last three financial years are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hoarding of foodgrains by traders to create artificial scarcity

*273. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge quantity of foodgrains including pulses and sugar have been purchased by traders during the last three months and kept in their stores so as to create its artificial scarcity which has resulted in the abnormal rise in its prices;

(b) if so, the approximate quantity of foodgrains which has been purchased by them; and

(c) whether Government had conducted any raid in this connection and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government is undertaking procurement of foodgrains under price support operations. Purchase and stocking of foodgrains is also undertaken by the private trade. However, precise information on the purchase and stocking of foodgrains, pulses and sugar by private trade is not maintained in this Ministry.

There has been no abnormal or unusual rise in prices during the last three months as shown in the changes in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for these commodities:—

Whole Sale Price Index

Base Year 1993-94=100

	Date	Index (WPI)	Date	Index (WPI)	Variation
Rice	22/4/2006	175.1	22/07/2006	177.6	+2.5
Wheat	22/4/2006	195.5	22/07/2006	201.5	+6.0
Pulses	22/4/2006	236.0	22/07/2006	241.1	+5.1
Sugar	22/4/2006	173.7	22/07/2006	171.4	-2.3

(c) During the year 2006 (upto 30.6.2006), under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, 30,920 raids were conducted by the States/ UTs, 1617 persons were arrested, 1097 persons were prosecuted, 35 persons were convicted and goods worth Rs. 679.10 lakhs confiscated. Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, 55 persons have been detained in various States during the year 2006 (upto 19.7.2006).

Making HIV test mandatory before marriage

*274. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make HIV test mandatory before marriage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States, if any, which have made such a test mandatory?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal by the National or State Governments to make HIV test mandatory before marriage.

Curbing the menace of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products

275. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details and market share of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products of various branded items;

(b) the loss that occurs to Government and the industry due to such spurious items; and

(c) the action taken to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No data is available with the Government regarding market share of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products of various branded items. No authentic estimate is available on the extent of the loss of revenue occurring to the